

## Message Text

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ACTION SCI-06

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 IO-14 AGR-20 AID-20 CEQ-02

CIAE-00 COA-02 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-11 EPA-04 INR-11

L-03 NSF-04 NSC-07 NSAE-00 PM-07 RSC-01 SS-20 SP-03

FEAE-00 PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15 SIL-01 LAB-06 DRC-01

SAJ-01 /176 W

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R 300349Z SEP 74

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2376

INFO USLO PEKING

USUN NEW YORK 718

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

UNCLAS HONG KONG 10763

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECON CH

SUBJECT PRC ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

SUMMARY: PEKING HAS SURFACED THE EXISTENCE OF A NEW OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION UNDER THE STATE COUNCIL AND HAS OFFERED TO CONTRIBUTE RMB 500,000 TO THE UN ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM. A SEPTEMBER "RED FLAG" ARTICLE ILLUSTRATES LEADERSHIP CONCERN FOR IMPROVING THE ENVIRONMENT--TO THE EXTENT THAT IT DOES NOT HAMPER PRODUCTION. PRIMARY CONCERNS ARE UTILIZATION OF WASTE MATERIAL AND DISPERSAL OF INDUSTRY. END SUMMARY.

1. THE ARRIVAL IN PEKING OF MAURICE STRONG, THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE UN ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAM SECRETARIAT, ON SEPTEMBER 22 PROVIDED THE PRC AN OCCASION TO PUBLICIZE ITS ANTI-POLLUTION ACTIVITIES. NCNA SURFACED A HITHERTO UNPUBLICIZED "OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION" UNDER THE STATE COUNCIL, REUTERS REPORTED THAT A CONTRIBUTION OF UNCLASSIFIED

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500,000 RMB TO THE UN ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAM WOULD BE DISCUSSED

(REUTERS, PEKING AS CARRIED IN HK'S PRO-PRC "NEW EVENING POST," SEPTEMBER 23), AND KIRIN PROVINCE INDICATED THAT A STATE COUNCIL DIRECTIVE ON ELIMINATING POLLUTION HAS BEEN DISSEMINATED (RS SEPTEMBER 19).

2. A VIEW OF THE PRC'S PRESENT POLICY TOWARD POLLUTION APPEARED IN A SEPTEMBER "RED FLAG" ARTICLE ENTITLED "SQUARELY FACE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION WORK." EXCERPTS IN NCNA LIST WASTE GAS, WATER, AND SLAG AS THE MAJOR SOURCES OF POLLUTION IN THE PRC. THE ARTICLE ENCOURAGES GREATER ATTENTION TO HANDLING POLLUTION, BUT IT LEAVES NO DOUBT THAT THE FIRST PRIORITY REMAINS "TO FULFILL OR OVERFULFILL THE STATE'S PRODUCTION PLANS." ONLY "UNDER CERTAIN CONDITIONS," I.E., WHERE PRODUCTION WILL NOT BE HINDERED, IS POLLUTION TO BE DEALT WITH AND THEN ONLY IN "STAGES." THE MAIN EFFORT WILL BE DIRECTED TOWARD UTILIZING WASTE PRODUCTS IN THE PRODUCTION CYCLE.

3. DISPERSAL OF NEW INDUSTRIES, LONG PART OF PRC ECONOMIC PLANNING, IS LINKED WITH THE "STRICT CONTROL OF THE PRESENT SIZE OF VARIOUS CITIES" AS MAIN POINTS IN THE PRC'S PROGRAM TO PREVENT POLLUTION. TAKING UP A FAVORITE MAO THEME, DISPERSAL IS ALSO SAID TO BE A WAY TO REDUCE THE DISPARITIES BETWEEN CITIES AND RURAL AREAS.

4. PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT IN RURAL AREAS IS IDENTIFIED AS A SPECIAL ISSUE WITH "DIRECT BEARING ON THE CONSOLIDATION OF THE WORKER-PEASANT ALLIANCE" (READ PEASANT ATTITUDES TOWARD INDUSTRIALIZATION OF RURAL AREAS). THE ARTICLE CRITICIZES THOSE WHO WOULD RATHER "SPEND MONEY IN COMPENSATING AGRICULTURE FOR LOSSES" THAN IN MAKING EFFORTS TO PREVENT THEM. (COMMENT: THIS IS THE FIRST PUBLIC REFERENCE TO SUCH A PRACTICE THAT WE RECALL.) AS THE PRC INDUSTRIALIZES, THE CONFLICT BETWEEN INDUSTRIAL EXPANSION AND SCARCITY OF AGRICULTURAL LAND SHOULD BECOME INCREASINGLY EVIDENT. IT WILL ALSO BE DIFFICULT TO PERSUADE MANAGERS AND CADRE, FACING DEMANDING PRODUCTION SCHEDULES, TO TAKE ANY STEPS AT ALL TO IMPROVE THE ENVIRONMENT IF IT RISKS CUTTING

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INTO PRODUCTION.

5. COMMENT: WHILE THE TIMING OF THE "RED FLAG" ARTICLE AND THE SURFACING OF THE OFFICE IS PROBABLY RELATED TO THE VISIT OF THE UN DELEGATION, WE THINK THE ARTICLE DOES REFLECT PRESENT PRC ATTITUDES ON POLLUTION CONTROL. THE LEADERSHIP PROBABLY FEELS A GENUINE CONCERN FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, BUT THIS IS CLEARLY SECONDARY TO

PROMOTING PRODUCTION. IT IS A CONVENIENT CONCERN THAT  
LENDING ITSELF WELL TO OTHER GOALS. BY URGING THAT ALL  
AVAILABLE RESOURCES--INCLUDING WASTE MATERIAL--BE  
UTILIZED, THE LEADERSHIP LINKS POLLUTION CONTROL WITH  
MAOIST SELF-RELIANCE. TO PREVENT POLLUTION BEFORE IT  
ARISES BY DISPERSAL OF INDUSTRY, NOT ONLY CAN BENEFIT  
THE ENVIRONMENT, IT IS ALSO SOUND STRATEGICALLY, IDEOLOG-  
ICALLY, AND ECONOMICALLY, ACCORDING TO MAOIST CANON.  
IMPROVEMENT OF THE LIVING ENVIRONMENT IS SIMPLY AN  
ADDITIONAL PLUS.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** ENVIRONMENT, POLLUTION, PRESS COMMENTS, GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 30 SEP 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
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**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D740275-0549  
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**Line Count:** 126  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION SCI  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** elyme  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 16 JUL 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <16 JUL 2002 by maustmc>; APPROVED <05 FEB 2003 by elyme>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** PRC ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY SUMMARY: PEKING HAS SURFACED THE EXISTENCE OF A NEW OFFICE  
**TAGS:** ECON, CH, UN, (STRONG, MAURICE)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005